



YEMEN – GOVERNANCE, PEACE AND STABILITY FACT SHEET

USAID is working with communities to peacefully resolve conflicts and reinforce social cohesion in Yemen.

Yemen is suffering the largest humanitarian crisis in the world, exacerbated by nearly eight years of ongoing conflict. War has severely deepened community vulnerabilities in Yemen, pushing more than 15.6 million people into extreme poverty and landing Yemen at the bottom of UNDP's Human Development Index (Yemen ranks 179th of 189 countries). USAID development assistance in Yemen bridges the relief-to-development continuum and strengthens Yemen's resiliency through programs that stabilize the economy, rebuild basic education and health systems, increase social cohesion, and improve water sector access and management.

USAID'S RESPONSE AND RESULTS

The conflict in Yemen poses enormous challenges to a negotiated resolution. Over the last few years, the destruction of infrastructure, livelihoods, and social services has weakened the resilience of Yemen's communities and governance systems. Solving the security, economic, political, and social issues facing Yemen will require strengthening the capacity of community members to identify and address grievances, reinforce social cohesion, and promote peaceful approaches to resolving disputes.

USAID's Yemen Communities Stronger Together (YCST) program uses the participatory action for community enhancement (PACE) model which is a step-by-step framework for building the resilience of

community members, civil society organizations, the private sector, traditional leaders, and local government officials. The activity seeks to collaboratively identify and address local issues through conflict mitigation and service delivery projects, as well as identify and support local-level initiatives that mitigate conflict and strengthen social cohesion. YCST also trains formal and informal leaders, organizations, and networks to serve as neutral arbitrators and peace-builders to meet community and constituent needs. Through a small grants mechanism, 24 grants totaling nearly \$1 million have been awarded to community-based Yemeni nongovernmental organizations to engage youth in community and civic life; build unity and tolerance across historical or other divides; promote innovative tools to reconnect communities and reignite pride in commonalities; and amplify women's participation in community peace-building and/or service delivery. For example, youth grantees have produced art, media, and community events that showcase messages of peace and reconciliation, build understanding across groups, and celebrate Yemen's shared cultural heritage.